AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement sheets for Figures 1 through 7 are enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 15, 22, 23, 24, 26 and 27 have been amended to now depend on Claims 9 or 1. Support for the amendments can be found in the originally filed claims.

Restriction to one of the following groups was required under 35 USC 121 and 372:

Group I Claims 1-14, drawn to a method for producing an immortalized non-tumorigenic human Schwann or schwannoma cell line and the pure cell line of non-tumorigenic immortalized Schwann or schwannoma cells;

Group II Claims 15-21, drawn to a method for determining the effect of a pharmacological agent on human Schwann or schwannoma cells;

Group III Claim 22, drawn to a method for screening cancer chemotherapeutic and antineoplastic activity of an agent;

Group IV Claims 24 and 25, drawn to a method for screening a neuroprotective activity of an agent;

Group V Claim 26, drawn to a method for treatment of neurodegeneration in a patient;

Group VI Claim 27, drawn to a kit for screening a pharmacological agent on schwannoma cells.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I that is claims 1-14, with traverse. The inventions listed as group I-VI relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The single inventive concept is the immortalized non-tumorigenic human Schwann or schwannoma cell line and the method of making immortalized non-tumorigenic human Schwann or schwannoma cell line. As discussed in the Specification as filed (page 2, lines 15-20):

> To date, no single cell line has been developed from NF2 tumor cells, and most studies were conducted either in yeast, mouse schwannoma cells or other non-Schwann human cells. There are three main reasons for this limited progress. First, human Schwann cells are difficult to obtain. Second, because of the lack of knowledge of Schwann cell growth factors, once the Schwann cells are obtained, they do not proliferate in culture. Third, there is the contamination of human fibroblast.

The Applicants were the first ones to establish and characterize a stable long-term schwannoma cell line. All of the methods in the restricted groups require the claimed invention of Group I, i.e. the immortalized non-tumorigenic human Schwann or schwannoma cell line established by the Applicants. To make explicit what was implicitly in Claims 15-27, the

independent claims 15, 22, 23, 24, 26 and 27 have been amended to now depend on Claims 9 or 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the restriction is no longer improper and should be withdrawn.

Election of species

The Examiner has further required an election of one of the following species:

virus in claim 2: a) SV40, b) adenovirus, c) human papilloma virus;

human papilloma virus in Claims 4 and 11: a) type 16, b) type 18, c) type 31, d) type 33, and e) type 35;

immortalizing gene in Claim 10: a) SV40 T antigen, b) adenovirus EA, c) human papilloma virus E6 and E7 genes.

In response to this restriction requirement, applicant elects the species of human papilloma virus, type 16, E6 and E7 genes with the understanding that upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. Currently, Claims 1, 6-9, and 15-27 are generic.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to issuance. In any point remains that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 9, 2006

By: _____

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